



**Written Testimony of Anne Hulick, Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut,
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Committee on Children,
March 5th, 2013.**

Testimony in Support of:

Senate Bill 981, AN ACT CONCERNING PESTICIDES ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

Dear Representative Urban, Senator Bartolomeo and honorable members of the Committee on Children,

My name is Anne Hulick, RN, MS, JD and I am the Coordinator of the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut (CSHC). I am also a nurse with many years of experience in environmental health. CSHC is a large coalition comprised of over fifty member organizations of health professionals, environmental justice advocates, labor groups, public health professionals, environmental experts, faith based groups, scientists and many individuals across Connecticut that are concerned about the growing body of research linking exposure to toxic chemicals with the rise in serious diseases. Toxic chemical exposure during critical windows of fetal development and to young infants and children is of particular concern.

The Coalition strongly supports SB 981. The Coalition has been proud to support Connecticut's restrictions on the use of pesticides on school grounds and child care facilities in the past and supports expanding these restrictions as proposed in SB 981.

Pesticides are inherently toxic, particularly to children. Some of the ingredients in pesticides are carcinogenic and neurotoxic and some have been linked to birth defects and adverse reproductive effects. Most lawn care pesticides contaminate ground water and are harmful to wildlife. Studies of major rivers have documented that 100% of all surface waters contained one or more pesticides at detectable levels.¹

Analyses of umbilical cord blood of babies born in the U.S., show on average the presence of over 200 industrial chemicals, including pesticides. Our children are being born polluted! Could this be linked to the rising incidence of childhood cancers, autism and learning behavioral disorders seen in the U.S? We may not know for sure but any steps that reduce children's exposure to toxic pesticides is a step in the right direction, particularly when safe non-toxic alternatives are available.

¹ Environment and Human Health, *Risks from Lawn-Care Pesticides* (2003)

The Coalition strongly supports SB 981 and urges its passage. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne B. Hulick". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Anne Hulick